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One more chorus — with guts

ONE MORE CHORUS, now, with a little more pizzazz and guts from you citizen voices on the back row.

Newly named CIA Director George Bush is taking hold, as you expected, and he said something in Lawrence, Kan. the other day that really puts this whole intelligence ruckus down to the earth level where we concerned folks can read the message.

In muted answer to 1,000 plus critical pages from the ravenous Senate Intelligence Committee staff that accuses the FBI and his CIA of everything but effectiveness, Bush said simply, but tellingly:

"WE NEED a covert (hidden, secret) capability. I believe we can operate in as clean a fashion as we can. But there are some grubby things in this spy business . . ."

Certainly — and Congress knows it — there are some "grubby" things in intelligence operations. That's what it is all about or we wouldn't have a CIA and an FBI. You don't hand your card to the enemy, domestic or foreign, and say "Pardon me, old man, but . . ."

An agent knows when he acts that it is your nation, your society, your life — or his.

And the sooner we get off the whelped backs of CIA and FBI now trying to cleanse their houses of decades old questionable past practices the better chance for this society, this nation.

The opposition points have been made — and some were well made — but now the hunters had better start listening to very cold warnings from men like Bush and get realistic about

this endless donnybrook they have initiated.

Mr. Bush, a totally reliable man pushing to re-route objectives of the CIA into unassailable legitimacy, now warns that in the next decade international terrorist threats against the United States could be more dangerous than conventional military or political threats. He told his Lawrence audience that there is increasing danger, with proliferation of nuclear weapons and materials, that terrorist fanatics will acquire nuclear capabilities.

TO COMBAT this prospect of horror, there must be support — not endless carping.

Relentless pursuit — demonstrably past constructive remedial processes — could decimate the entire intelligence apparatus. It has been said here over and over again, but the congressional wolves have made their good and bad points and should now move to other areas that need repair far more than the FBI and CIA.

In fact, if the current bushwhacking continues the public might well demand to know precisely what is behind all this persistent clamor to "get" the FBI and CIA.

To repeat, valid points have been made and certain practices should be abolished as totally out of American character — notably foreign assassination plots and the misuse of the FBI by every American president back to Franklin D. Roosevelt — but we must not lose our perspective about overall intelligence in the headline frenzy of the moment.

Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, who first chaired the Senate Intelligence Committee and then conveniently slipped into the Democrat presidential preferential race after getting rave notices from networks and big press, is making few ripples out among the people. If we properly read the public in the hinterlands, they are weary of Washington's daily blast and not supportive of continued attacks based upon very old information.

NOW WE read of the "chilling" Senate committee report that "documents" a 40-year pattern of "official lawlessness"!

In 400 pages prepared by eager young staff workers, we are told that Presidents since 1932 have been sleazy operators who used the FBI to track down political enemies.

Most of this adds up to a desire on the part of some members of Congress to take over intelligence operations by imposing strict controls from a single oversight committee.

This could be the blunder of the century if these same Congressional members handle other "secret" matters by leaking information all over Washington — and the world.

The Senate liberals have been temporarily choked off by a more sensible Rules Committee amendment that would require any oversight committee to share jurisdiction with other committees now involved in intelligence oversight.

If all worked together — and kept their mouths shut — intelligence could be steered in the proper direction.